



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 21, 2006

H.R. 3049 **Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 29, 2006

H.R. 3049 would make it a federal crime to import or ship four species of carp—black, bighead, silver, and largescale silver—unless the importer has obtained permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to import the fish for scientific, medical, educational, or zoological reasons. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3049 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. H.R. 3049 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 3049 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on entities that import or ship certain varieties of Asian carp. Based on information from industry and government sources, CBO estimates that the direct cost of complying with the mandate would be small and fall below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates established in UMRA (\$128 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill would add certain species of carp to the list of injurious species that are currently prohibited from being imported or shipped. The cost of the mandate would be the loss of net income from not being able to import or ship those fish. According to government and industry sources, the value of shipments and imports is very small relative to UMRA's threshold.

Because the bill would establish a new offense, the federal government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that H.R. 3049 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, however, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 3049 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.